



National Park Service
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Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

U.S. Forest Service
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Sequoia National Forest



Interagency News Release / Fire Update

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Kaweah-Kern Complex – Suppression Efforts Continue on Paradise 2 Fire

The Rocky Mountain Fire Use Management Team continues to manage two suppression fires and 13 wildland fire use projects in the parks, Sequoia National Forest, and Inyo National Forest.

Fire managers are suppressing **Homer's Nose 2** and **Paradise 2** fires to protect state lands, private structures, and to help reduce smoke impacts in the Three Rivers area. Over the last few weeks, this has involved retardant and water-drops from aircraft in extremely rugged terrain where conditions are hazardous for firefighters. The decision to suppress, while beneficial to local communities, comes with a high price tag and noise impacts. "Cost and noise are the tradeoffs for our commitment to protect structures and limit smoke," says Bill Kaage, Fire Management Officer for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. "We appreciate the patience and support of local residents during this busy fire season."

To date, **Homer's Nose 2** has cost \$3,586 per acre, while **Paradise 2** has cost \$7,654 per acre. In contrast, the 13 wildland fire use projects have cost \$60 per acre. "Wildland fire use projects generally are much more cost effective, because aggressive suppression tactics are not required to manage them, especially when there are no threats to life and property," observed Barbara Bonefeld, Incident Commander for the Fire Use Management Team. In addition, fire use tactics offer the opportunity to minimize firefighter exposure to working in hazardous terrain or engaging in higher risk suppression tactics.

The following is a summary of acreage and costs:

Homer's Nose 2	230 acres	\$824,800
Paradise 2	65 acres	\$497,500
Wildland Use Fires	8,405 acres	\$502,200

The following is a summary of major fires in the parks.

- **Homer's Nose 2** – Ten park firefighters completed improvement of handline on this fire yesterday. Containment is estimated at forty percent. Because of extremely rugged terrain, crews cannot construct line around the fire to achieve complete containment. The fire is showing very little activity and remains an estimated 230 acres in size. Crews have been pulled from this fire; monitoring will continue by aerial surveillance. This is the last report on this fire, unless significant activity occurs.

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- **Paradise 2** – Three fire crews (the Arrowhead Hotshots, the Kings River Hotshots, and the Springville Type I crew) made good progress on holding and improving handline on the south perimeter of this 65-acre fire. Today two crews will finish constructing line on the northwest flank. Helicopters will provide support with bucket drops of water. This fire, located on Paradise Ridge about three miles east of Milk Ranch Peak, is expected to spread north. The terrain is too rugged to allow fire crews to work safely, so no firefighters will be placed on the ground on the north side.

The following is an update for current wildland fire use projects. These are lightning-caused fires allowed to spread naturally to improve forest health by reducing ground fuels and maintaining a natural fire cycle. Trails remain closed in the areas of these fires to provide for public safety.

- **Williams Fire (Kings Canyon National Park)** – Activity continued on this fire with torching of trees, spotting, and short surface runs. Estimated acreage is 2,400 acres.
- **West Kern Fire (Sequoia National Park, Sequoia National Forest, and Inyo National Forest)** – This fire spotted across the Kern River to the east side on the Inyo National Forest in the Kern Lake area. Total estimated size is 5,740 acres of which 2,245 acres are on the Sequoia National Forest. The spot fire on the Inyo National Forest has grown to 435 acres. Fire personnel will continue to monitor this fire.
- **Giant Fire (Sequoia National Park)** – This fire continues smoldering and creeping in surface vegetation. The estimated size is 240 acres. Several popular trails remain closed for the safety of the public. Hazard trees continue to fall in the fire perimeter, and there are numerous hot spots. Today, crews will wrap the Squatter's Cabin with fire resistant material as a precautionary measure.

The ten remaining wildland fire use projects are showing little activity.

In addition, **Sequoia National Forest** is managing two wildland fire use projects in the Cannell Meadow Ranger District. Forest staff will continue to monitor these lightning-caused fires that started on September 3.

- **Hooker Fire** – Located southeast of Hooker Meadow, this fire has grown to approximately 243 acres.
- **Albanita Fire** – This fire, located about two miles north of the Hooker Fire, is approximately 227 acres in size.

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